

The CENT Book -- Misteaks, Guufs, & Nuu
John D Wright

1. The pebbled white cover was a conscious choice ("the good guys"). It was a mistake, as the least bit of dirtiness is glaringly evident. The same principle holds for public figures and professing Christians.
2. When I was working with Section 2 (which I did first), my printer insisted I number the pages for reference. He was right, but when I added the much-needed Section 1, the page-numbering changes just slipped by. I never noticed until I had the final bound product in my hands. If you number your section 1 as pages 1-22 (beginning with "Why Collect ..."), some of the notes below might be easier to follow. And people wonder why a 400-page book has highest page# 335.
3. Typography: I intended large stars, not the tiny asterisks flanking the words *NOT* and *LOT* on page I-1 and on (*6) and *10 on page I-22 (star numbers).
4. Page I-2 (About EAC): EAC's mailing address has changed. It is now EAC, PO Box 111073, Memphis, TN 38111-1073. EAC's primary contact is via their website at www.EACS.ORG , or email at webmaster@eacs.org .
5. Page I-9 (The Literature): I misquoted the name of Andrews' first 54-page booklet. The correct title is "A Description of 268 Varieties of U. S. Cents 1816-57 in the Collection of Frank D. Andrews". Only six or seven examples of this booklet survive of the forty printed. The differences between Andrews 1881 and Andrews 1883 are profound.
6. Page I-11: New Topic: (First brought to my attention by Beth Deisher and Michael Fahey, who have written extensively in Coin World on this topic; and by Bart Woloson, who was excited about discovering a "new variety of 1818 cent"): CHINESE COUNTERFEITS. Beginning 2008 or before, the Chinese have been exporting better-and-better counterfeits of US coins of all types. So far the Chinese large cents I have seen have been rather unsophisticated, but I expect their newer products to become more and more deceptive. On their current Matron Head products, the date is hand-cut and does not "look right". The host coin used to produce these dies is an AU 33-5 (small-letter reverse). The host variety was identified by me in Feb 2008, and the actual host coin was identified by Jack Young in October 2019 (Heritage Auctions 25 Feb 2007, lot 23157 in an ANACS slab as "1833 N-5, AU Details, Cleaned"). I have seen these in grades from F through red "MS", and as every date from 1815 thru 1839, always with the the old pre-1836 broad-bust head style. Another fake-family has a low-relief (after-1843) head and large-letter reverse. Some are stamped "COPY" or "REPLICA" but many are **NOT** so marked. The primary into-the-market conduit for these counterfeits is eBay. The Chinese are making EVERY date of US large cent from 1793 through 1857 -- often with the wrong head-style or letter-size. Your collection could add two more 1839 heads (for a new total of 7!): "Type of 1834" and "Type of 1844". Of course, these new two do not come with an obverse bisecting crack (yet -- but be patient: these Chinese are mighty clever!).
7. Page I-13 (Glossary): I omitted Browlock -- The first wave of hair at Miss Liberty's brow, under the left of the 'L' on the tiara.

8. Page I-14 (Century Letters): I omitted the 'a' on 'triangular'.
9. Page I-16 (Die Chain): Insert some words: "... If one die is kept in service with a different mate, the resulting string ..."
10. Page I-17 (Flowlines): Insert words in last line: "... seen on many new and near-new coins.
11. Page I-21 (Small Letters) next to last line: "over- shadowed" should be "overshadowed". The line-break hyphenation didn't go away when the paragraph was reblocked. Page I-20 (Puncheon) fourth line: same thing -- "some- times" should be "sometimes".

SECTION 2 begins here ...

12. Page 2, 1815-1816, last paragraph: 'forelock' should be 'browlock'.
13. Page 3, 16-1, Striking: ... dentils at K1-K3. (not 'at 9-10')
(could also be written ... dentils at *9-*10.)
14. Page 4, 16-2, Striking: Revise end of last sentence: "... an eighth-turn right, occasionally with reverse crossways right, and even less frequently with dies head-to-head."
15. Page 7, 16-5, Striking: Ed Fuhrman found one on eBay in 2015 with a heavy cud at star 8, verified by me and sold to me at EAC 2019.
16. Page 16, 17-2. Striking: Line omitted: "... recent light (see variety 2 of 1816), but a radial crack grows early through S1, ..."
17. Page 35, 18-1, Striking: Correction: ... eventually extending from just above *2 to ...
18. Page 36, 18-2, Striking: Add new last sentence: Latest state shows another circumferential crack through UNITE below center of these letters and the cud extending to this crack through ITE.
19. Page 39, 18-4, Discussion: David Johnson found a new "AU", Aug 2012.
20. Page 40, 18-5, Obverse: (Noted by Sandy Cooper): Should be "Obverse 4", not "Observe 4".
21. Page 45, 18-10, Striking Variations: (Noted by Charlie Brown):
I have carefully examined one G/AG coin on which I could find no trace of the obverse die cracks. Though too worn to be positive, the 'unbroken' die state of 18-10 may indeed exist.
22. Page 56, 19-7, Reverse label: V.Large Berries, Rusted Die
(not "Rusted Date").
23. Page 59, 19-10, both labels: These were copied from page 58 instead of the intended new Labels. They should read ...
"Very Wide Date 1 81 9" and "E in STATES Low".

24. Page 66, 20-4, Reverse: (Noted by Sandy Cooper): This die appears on number 4 of 1820 and number 7 of 1822. (not "on number 2 of 1820 and ...). Replace ", any of the first three positions being diagnostic" with ". This is the only small-berry 1820 reverse with PLS FPR."
25. Page 72, 20-9, Striking: Add new last sentence: Later, heavily flowlined examples show a wormtrack (crack or crumbling) from chin into the field and vertically from bust to top of 8.
26. Page 91, 22-7, Reverse: (Noted by Sandy Cooper): This die appears on number 4 of 1820 and number 7 of 1822. (not "on number 2 of 1820 and ...).
27. Page 98, 22-14, Discussion: There are now at least sixteen of these (F,VG(4),G(8),Fr(3)). There are now auction records for this variety that fully support the exorbitant private-treaty prices. Now high R6.
28. Page 108, 24-2, Reverse: (Noted by Wayne Phillips): Typo -- Key leaves point NR, SPR, PC, C (not "NR, SPC, PC, C").
29. Page 116, 25-2, Striking: Sometimes has reverse crossways right.

***** INSERT 25-5 UPDATE PAGE HERE (after Page 118) *****

30. Page 119, 25-5, NEW: (Discovered by Tom Deck 11/2011) Obverse N4 (qv) with Reverse N10 (qv). Andrews never owned this variety, despite the Blaisdell claim that his A5 (which proved to be N10) was "ex-Andrews". The discovery specimen (or "re-discovery") (G) turned up on eBay misattributed as "N4". This was the first example to be identified since it was published in 1883 (128 years). Published in Coin World, Numismatic News, and Penny-Wise in January 2012. This is "A5" not "N5", since Andrews gave a minimal description in 1883 while Newcomb listed this variety as "unknown" without description. Due to its similarity to N4, N6, and N10, a flurry of false alarms immediately ensued. In the next seven years sixteen more have been confirmed: Henry Hettger G, Chris McCawley F, Scott Nelson G, Ken Schugars G & VG, Lucas Baldridge AG (now NGC slabbed as 'G5'), 2 more eBay: AG (8/2014) & G (5/2015), Dave Lange G, Steve McCain AG, Tom Reynolds VG, Paul Pattacini G, Tom Bodell G, Herb Brunhofer AG, Herb Brunhofer Fair (his second). And Dennis Fuoss Fine (1/2022).
31. Page 121, 25-7, Striking (at end): "... date to *10, and a hairline crack from brow to top inner point of *4."
32. Page 146, 27-8, Striking: (Noted by Bob Grellman): The "rare terminal die state" does not exist. It was listed from a good pressing and a convincing letter from Jules Reiver. The example in question was examined carefully when the Reiver collection was sold in January of 2006. The "chunk fallen out of the interior of the die" is an illusion caused by a flan lamination folded over and worn down to obscure its edges. This is not a feature of the die that struck this coin. Jules was a meticulous student of early US die varieties and die states, but occasionally even the "experts" get fooled by these fascinating old coppers.

33. Page 150, 27-12, Reverse label: (a preference item). Though "PLF SPC" (or "PLF PC") is diagnostic, an easier-to-notice feature is "PLS NOT PR". Reverse: (Noted by Wayne Phillips): Key leaves point NR,R-,PC,PC (not SPC) This is for consistency with 28-1,12 (same die). The SPC vs PC on PLF is a judgment-call on a tiny difference. Striking: Delete the current last sentence ("At least one example has ..."). The extra obverse "crack" on that coin was a corrosion-track, not a crack in the die. Add new last sentence ... (Discovered by Bob Grellman): I have seen one (G) with the vertical obverse crack complete, bottom-to-top, and as broad as the '1' in the date. That coin brought \$2645 in the Holmes2 sale (Superior, 5/2010). Discussion: I finally found two unattributed in the Butternut Hoard (1996). Steve Ellsworth gave me one of them as thanks for my help with this hoard.

In June 2011 Steve Vesely found his SIXTH example of 27-12, a nice XF, now slabbed by PCGS as "AU50". Tom Reynolds claims to have seen yet another XF.

34. Page 155, 28-3. Obverse: (Noted by Alan Welty): Should read "with the 1828 struck between the two 1827's". (not "1827 ... betw ... 1828's")
35. Page 162, 28-10, Obverse: (Noted by Bill Hoos): Left edge of curl is over the center of 2. (not "over center of 8")
36. Page 167, 29-1, Striking: This variety sometimes has the reverse crossways left and even more rarely (noted by Red Henry) head-to-head.
37. Page 180, 30-2, Striking: Insert second sentence: "Early strikes show the obverse IC extended to K2."
38. Page 185, 30-7, Striking: Obverse dentilation is usually strongest at right top, reverse strongest at top. (not "at left and above.")
39. Page 186, 30-8, Striking: insert within first sentence: "... recut to the left and remnants of an IC at dentil tips *1-3, but this fades ..."
40. Page 187, 30-9, Reverse Label: Should be "PLS C" (PLC C is also true, but the PLS is easier to notice and is diagnostic. This was a typo.) A third VF example (comparable to the plate coin here) turned up in early 2003. Jerry Wysong found it in a date set, sold in the 2004 EAC Sale at \$18,700. Then in 2004 two more showed up unattributed on eBay -- in March (G) and May (VG).
41. Page 197, 31-5, Reverse: (Noted by Alan Welty): This is reverse "E" (not "A"). Corrections go at the right of the reverse picture and on the "Reverse E:" heading. I copied this from the description of 1832 reverse "A" (first use of this die, noted on page 191) and failed to update its die-name for the 1831 mating. The reverse die-names on Plate 17 are correct.
42. Page 229, 34-7, Discussion: In 1996 Rod Widok cherried a VG example. It sold in the EAC Sale of 1997 and again privately since. Was it a spent Proof? I think likely yes, but in that grade we will never know. Another VG turned up at a show in 2010, and a G later, so keep looking! Current census is Proof60&better(4), AU(1), VG(2), G(1), with one more reported but unconfirmed AU. Might this be the 'Confirmed' AU above?

43. Page 246, 35-9, Striking: At least five terminal-state examples have been seen with reverse upset, full ERIC cud, and a strong obverse cud at *10-11+. The first (G) generated a lot of interest when it showed up on eBay as "1835 Cent, three errors", and the second (double struck, XF, NGC slabbed as "MS61 Brown", re-slabbed by PCGS as "AU55 Brown") created even more excitement in a Superior sale (14 Sep 2003). The third (G) appeared in early 2004, and the fourth (VF corroded = VG) on eBay in April of 2006, where it brought \$3,200. The XF brought \$12,075 in the Holmes2 sale (5/2010).
44. Page 255, 35-17: add new sentence at end: "See page 243 for a picture."
45. Page 259, 35-19, Discussion: (Reported by Mark Borckardt): "An XF but stripped example turned up in May 2012, probably the 4th best now known."
46. Page 265, 36-3, Striking: Add new sentence at end: "Final strikes show a small obverse rimbreak at *7.5-*9 barely into the dentils."
47. Page 271, 1837: first paragraph, line 9: (Noted by Sandy Cooper): "William Procter" (not Proctor).
48. Page 279, 37-7: Discussion: One or two Proofs have been claimed but disproven from these dies. The HRN:684-FS:339 piece has since been confirmed as a really nice early strike, but not a Proof. The one I certified for ANACS in 1980 as a Proof has since been proven to be only a superb early strike -- not a Proof.
49. Page 281, 37-9: Striking: add comment at end: "... lovely tan, and has been seen with reverse crossways, rotated right."
50. Page 283, 37-11: Striking: Add comment at end: "Obverse often shows tiny evidences of rim-crumbling between *4-5 and above *7."
51. Page 294, 38-2, Striking: Insert phrase in 2nd sentence: ... "rather strong dentilation, occasionally overrunning the rim K10-K11 obverse, with dentilation often somewhat ..." . Change 4th sentence "Even the earliest ones ..." to "All but the very earliest ones show minor rust pitting around the ear and base of neck."
52. Page 317, 1839, End of first paragraph: (Noted by Harry Salyards): The "Abner Doubleday" story was the concocted "findings" in 1907 of a commission formed "to determine the origins of baseball". That the intention of the commission was to "prove" that our longtime national sport was "a uniquely invented-in-America game" certainly had a great bearing on their "findings". Civil War hero General Abner Doubleday (died 1893) fit their purposes well, as he was a hero, had been dead for 14 years, and could not refute their claims.

This myth was universally accepted until debunked 32 years later in 1939. It still shows in many histories and chronologies as fact. (Fooled ME!!). The truth is that baseball evolved from the English game "rounders", called "townball" here in the early 1800's, and is a cousin to the current British game "cricket". There is no unique "birth" to the game. Cooperstown NY was chosen to house The Baseball Hall of Fame because of this fabrication about the origins of the game, since Cooperstown had been Doubleday's home during his high school years.

53. Page 322, 39-4. (Noted by Mark Klein) There may be more than one obverse die here (and thus more than one variety) for the 1839 Silly-Head without a hole in the ear. Mark notes minor date and curl variances, giving rise to Mark's new "39-16" and "39-17".
54. Page 323, 39-5. This whole page is replaced. See 39-10 below.
55. Page 324, 39-6, Reverse: (Noted by Mark Klein) The "Broken-stem" reverse of 1839 (Newcomb's reverses "F" and "I") may indeed be two different dies, proven by the different shapes of the broken stem. That stem on rev "F" (N11) is a smooth swoop to the berry, while the stem on rev "I" (N6) has a sharp break (bend) at its base. This could be two dies or a rework of one die as previously noted. Reverse "F" (N11) is the earlier (un-reworked) use if same die. Whether one die or two, this does not affect variety-attribution.
56. Page 326, 39-8, Obverse: (Noted by Wayne Phillips): Middle of paragraph. "Curl ends in a point over inner curve of 3." Not "... a point over 9." Striking: add to the end: " ... seen, besides two tiny rim cuds below 83."
57. Page 325, 39-8. (Noted by Mark Klein) The 1839 Head-of-1840 may actually be two extremely similar varieties, differentiated only by patterns of obverse flowlines in the later strikings, giving rise to Mark's "39-18".
58. Page 327, 39-9. Striking: (Noted by Carol Tailby): Next-to-last line in left column: "... defect below N is ..." should read "... defect above E of ONE is ...".
58. Page 327, 39-9, Reverse. (Noted by Mark Klein) The 1839 Silly-Head reverse (Newcomb's reverses "A" and "D") may indeed be two different dies, differentiated by absence or presence of the mark below the inside leaves above E of ONE. Newcomb's reverse "A" (N1, N4) lacks this mark while Newcomb's reverse "D" (N9) has this mark. Or, it could be just a slight reworking of a later-state die "A" as previously noted. Whether one die or two, this does not affect variety-attribution.
60. Page 328, 39-10: (Noted by Randy Snyder): My claim was proven wrong -- 39N5 and 39N10 *ARE* different varieties. An insert update page was made later with a full revision of N5 on one side and N10 on the other. This was published in the November 1993 issue of Penny-Wise.
- ***** INSERT 39-5/10 UPDATE PAGE HERE (after Page 328) *****
61. Page 344, 39-15. Obverse: (Noted by Hugh Bodell): A confirming point for the 39-15 obverse (vs 39-13) is the 39 spacing. On 39-15 the top and bottom spacing between 39 is about equal, while on 39-13 the bottom-gap between 39 is twice the top-gap.

62. Plate 11: Corrections for item 30 above (25-5):

Left column: Normal A's, long topbar on F
 PLS PR 2
 PLS SPC, PLF SPC 4
 PLS PC, PLF C-
 Wide date, *1,2 nearly touch .. 10
 Close date, *1,2 away fm dentils 5 (v.rare)

Right column: Rev "J" renames to Rev "E".
 Add --- 5 --- between Obv.4 and Rev.E

63. Plate 27: Corrections for items 54,60 above (39-5 and 39-10):

Left column: Front of coronet splays away
 from L. No berry under ER 5
 Inner " " " 10

Right column: Change 2nd & 3rd rev 'E' to 'H'
 Delete notes '(Newcomb's H)'
 Break the II between rev 'E' and 1st rev 'H'
 Add ---- 5 ---- between Obv.5 and Rev.E
 Change -- 5 ----
 to -- 10 --- between Obv.5 and 1st Rev.H
 Delete the ----- between Rev.E and -- 10 ---

64. Rarity Table (last page): Change 1822 col.14 from '8-' to '6',
 1825 col.5 from '--' to '6', and 1839 col.10 from '---' to '1'.
 New examples continue to be identified of almost all varieties,
 occasionally even some within the top few examples known of a var.
 That is why any rarity table needs an 'eff date' to be credible.

The effective date of the rarity table in this book is January 1992.

For R5 and up, expect the rarity rating to drop by about one number
 (eg: R7 to R6) every 20-25 years, and expect at least one new coin
 in the 'best 6 pieces' of each variety to surface each 20-25 years.
 This 'slide' will only cease when every existing cent of this period
 has been attributed -- which none of us expects to ever see happen.

If you find more Guufs or Nuus'es, PLEASE TELL ME about them.

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